

VZCZCXRO7607
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DE RUEHNNE #1485/01 0871206
ZNY CCCCC ZZB
O 281206Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 4197
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4297
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE
RUEFAAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 0775
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0884
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5805
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0816
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 9310
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 9427
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0614
RUEHL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2642
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0011
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3178
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1793
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 0998
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4674
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 9622
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 7228
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 9262
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 3782
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 8789
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 4353
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHHEHN/NSC WASHDC
RUEIDN/DNC WASHINGTON DC
RHMMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4188
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 6575
RHMFSS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHMMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL

Wednesday, 28 March 2007, 12:06
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 NEW DELHI 001485
SIPDIS
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SCA FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAM B. WOOD
EO 12958 DECL: 03/28/2017
TAGS PREL, PGOV, EAID, ECON, ENRG, SCUL, SOCI, AF, IN
SUBJECT: OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN SOFT POWER IN AFGHANISTAN
REF: A. NEW DELHI 1327 B. NEW DELHI 729 C. HOWARD-KESHAP E-MAIL 09MAR07
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Classified By: PolCouns Ted Osius for Reasons 1.4 (B,D)
¶1. (C) SUMMARY: As requested, this cable contains specific, concrete ideas for opportunities for India to use soft power in helping Afghanistan.
¶2. (C) Trilateral cooperation on infrastructure and capacity building projects among the U.S., Japan and India could also bring economies of scale.
Background: A Natural Ally, Already Giving Generously

¶3. (C) Indian experts on Afghanistan, such as XXXXXXXXXXXX believe India is well-regarded and liked in Afghanistan, and calls India a "natural friend".
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WHAT INDIA CAN OFFER

Affordable Professionals

¶4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX when asked to highlight India's contribution, immediately answered that the best bang for the buck comes from India's professional training.
Affordable Training

¶5. (C) The GOI is already bringing Afghans to India for training in various fields much more cheaply than what most other countries can offer.
Administrative Service

¶6. (C) India is already in the process of sending some
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thirty Indian Administrative Service officers to Afghanistan (ref a). As other ministries and government offices are identified as needing outs
Affordable Energy

¶7. (C) The India-led Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul power transmission line is running ahead of schedule and on budget, and should provide significant
People-to-People

¶8. (C) India was proud to provide food aid (in the form of high protein biscuits) during the 2002 "Back to School" campaign, as well as humanitarian straight donations.

¶9. (C) In addition to humanitarian and medical supplies provided in 2002, India has provided direct donations of materiel to Afghanistan, and
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has given buses, minibuses, utility vehicles, aircraft, education kits, books, school desks, laboratory equipment, musical instruments, computer equipment and multi-lateral partnerships.

¶10. (C) The 21st Century Leadership Alliance can provide the basis for greater cooperation between the U.S., India and Japan in promoting democracy.
IMPEDEMENTS TO INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION

Pakistan Withholds Transit Access

¶11. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX and other Embassy contacts, transit through Pakistan is imperative for the economic integration of the region.
The Security Issue

¶12. (C) Security continues to be an issue of public concern in sending Indians to work in Afghanistan. Since 2003, two Indian engineers have been killed in Afghanistan. The Indian media says Indians who work specifically on road-building projects in Afghanistan are targeted due to their ethnicity.
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¶13. (U) As an outsider looking in, Post realizes that Embassy Kabul and Washington (as well as the government of Afghanistan) are best placed